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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 017285
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-02 /006 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN
APPROVED BY IO: TERRE BROWN
----------103886 220413Z /64
R 220345Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 8654
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 017285

FOL RPT CAPE TOWN 0070 SENT ACTION SECSTATE & USUN NEW YORK
DTD 20 JAN 78

QUOTE: UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0070

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, US, UK
SUB: NAMIBIA: PRESS REPORT ON NEW YORK TALKS

REF: STATE 01574

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL REPORT
CITED IN REFTEL:

QUOTE: A MAJOR NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE TO SAVE THE SOUTH
WEST AFRICA INDEPENDENCE NEGOTIATIONS FROM COLLAPSE HAS
BEEN LAUNCHED.
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EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO CALL A MEETING OF
WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S
FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. PIK BOTHA.

FOREIGN SOURCES INDICATED YESTERDAY THE MEETING
WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT MONTH.

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IT IS UNDERSTOOD THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS,
WITH WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, ARE THE PRIME
MOVERS BEHIND THE RESCUE ATTEMPT.

THE GROWING HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS AND THE
CONTINUING INTRANSIGENCE OF SWAPO CAUSED THE NEAR
COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS, SOURCES SAID.

THE MAIN REASON FOR THE BRITISH-FRENCH INITIATIVE
WAS TO GET AROUND THE US-SA FRICTION, AND
IN PARTICULAR THE U.S. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE UNDER
MR.ANDREW YOUNG AND MR. DON MCHENRY.

THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE UN
SECRETARY GENERAL, DR. KURT WALDHEIM, WHO WOULD HAVE
BEEN A VITAL ELEMENT IN THE CANCELLED JANUARY 17
TALKS, AND WHICH THE UNITED STATES APPARENTLY DID
NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, INCREASED THE UNEASE AMONG
ITS WESTERN POWER PARTNERS.

THE SEEMINGLY SOFT-LINE THE UNITED STATES
HAS ADOPTED TOWARDS SWAPO AGGRAVATED THE MATTER FURTHER BECAUSE
THE OTHER PARTNERS BLAMED SWAPO FOR THE GENERAL LACK OF
PROGRESS IN THE TALKS.
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THEY NOW QUESTION WHETHER SWAPO IS INTERESTED
IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND WHETHER IT
INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN SWA'S COMING ELECTIONS.

FOREIGN SOURCES SAID THE ATTEMPT TO ELEVATE THE
NEGOTIATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTERS LEVEL WOULD
GIVE THE WESTERN POWERS FAR MOR LEVERAGE IN DEALING
WITH SWAPO AND IN GETTING UN APPROVAL OF ITS SETTLEMENT
PROPOSALS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING
IN NEW YORK, IF IT COMES OFF.

MR.BOTHA REFUSED TO COMMENT LAST NIGHT.

BOWDLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Event:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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